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Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP80M01133A001100110006-9

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/IC 75-1808

18 NOV 1975

Major General Donn A. Starry
Commander, U.S. Army Armor Center
and Fort Knox
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121

Dear Donn,

Thank you for your letter of 14 October regarding the CIA research paper on "Flexibility in Soviet Offensive Concepts: The Roles of Armor and Other Ground Forces." I forwarded your comments to the office of origin for reconciliation and from their response (copy enclosed), it is obvious that you picked up a couple of outright errors which slipped through the proofreaders. They will be corrected in a forthcoming reprint which I will provide you. Thanks for keeping us straight and for your substantive feedback which will be helpful in clarifying the paper for other readers.

I am gratified to hear that you may be able to use some material from the paper in your curricula.

Sincerely,

/s/ Samuel V. Wilson

Samuel V. Wilson
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

Enclosure

cc: General W. E. DePuy
Commander, U.S. Army Training
& Doctrine Command
Ft. Monroe, Virginia 23651

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31 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. Gen. Samuel V. Wilson
Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : Gen. Starry's Comments on SR-RP
75-4

1. We have reviewed Gen. Starry's comments on the OSR Research Paper, "Flexibility in Soviet Offensive Concepts: The Roles of Armor and Other Ground Forces." Some of Gen. Starry's comments--2-3 on the attached sheet--referred to the graphic on page 10 of the paper and corrected mistakes in this graphic which we did not catch in the proofing of the paper. The paper is being reprinted to correct these errors and we appreciate his taking time to provide us with his thoughts on the paper.

2. Gen. Starry also noted that the motorized rifle division has an independent tank battalion of 31-51 tanks and a total in the division of 266 tanks. The graphic on page 10 did not reflect battalion-size units but we did consider the independent tank battalion in calculating the divisional tank total of 255 tanks. We estimated the independent tank battalion at 40 tanks which is the agreed CIA/DIA position. The General also stated that there was no Soviet brigade echelon. The reference in the graphic to the brigade was in the context of a World War II organization, however, and was not intended to reflect present Soviet organization.

3. Lastly, Gen. Starry took exception to our statement that tank technology had changed little over the past decade. The General is certainly correct in his contention that tank technology is

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always improving, but we do not believe that the Soviets consider NATO tank improvements to be as dramatic as the increases in NATO antitank missile capabilities.



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Chief
Theater Forces Division
OSR

Attachment:

Gen. Starry's Comments

(Comments removed)

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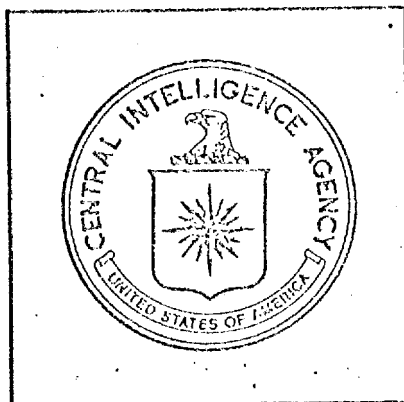
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*Flexibility in Soviet Offensive Concepts:
'The Roles of Armor and Other Ground Forces*

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SR RP 75-4
July 1975

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